


Capitol
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news

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Pee-Wee Hunt "Mayor of Twelfth Street"

EDITED BY DAVE DEXTER, JR.



This will be a big month for top-flight entertainers in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Night clubs are expected to jump. The slump, it is hoped, will have ended.

Operators are spending extra money—fantastic sums—to beat empty tables.

Here are the most important events:

Harry James at the Palladium starting Nov. 23. His fee is said to be "around" the \$5,000 weekly mark.

Kay Thompson at the Hotel Beverly-Wilshire at a record \$10,000 per week against a percentage of the gross. The ornate hotel has redecorated its smart Florentine room especially for Kay and her aides, the Williams Brothers.

Spike Jones and band at Slapsy Maxie's beginning Nov. 8. Jones will get \$10,500 a week for his zany act.

Morton Downey at Ciro's Nov. 12 at \$5,000 per.

Freddy Martin at the Hotel Ambassador's Coconut Grove commencing Nov. 9 at a reported \$3,500. Hotel also will feature Florence Desmond with Martin. She'll grab \$2,500 every week.

It should be a lively winter.



Leaves Come Tumbling Down, Etc.

Seems like old times, to use a tried and true cliché, with Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman both woodshedding new dance bands. And don't think they aren't aware of each other's activity. With things as they are these days in the band biz it's likely that both will strike gold with their newly-formed crews in the east. . . . Wardell Gray, young tenor saxist who went from Los Angeles to New York with Goodman last spring and who tooted with Basie briefly a few weeks back, will be one of the key sidemen in the new, full-sized BG unit and Buddy Greco is likely to be the singer. Shaw will try to popularize his old "Begin The Beguine" music again.

But when was it ever unpopular?

Squibs From An Old Notebook

Maggie Whiting gets the call to be the "Sweetheart" of the Notre Dame alumni Dec. 4 at the L. A. Coliseum when the South Benders bend USC around and around. Mag brought Leahy's men luck last year and they figure she can't do any harm again next month. . . . The new year will bring forth more new songs than any year in history. Tunesmiths have been saving 'em up since last Dec. 31 and the recording firm guys already are being inundated with notes.

You Can Bet Your Life . . . It's Wrong

Chalk up a score for Erroll Garner, the sly and subtle piano-plucker from Pittsburgh, who is making an admirable comeback on the west coast. Garner departs Hollywood for a Nov. 17 opening at the "Say When" Club in San Francisco. But they don't say when he will close. . . . Haw! Life mag pictured Benny Carter greeting Diz Gillespie with a series of phony bop salutations and tagged Carter (who was Diz's boss at one time—and teacher) as a Gillespie "disciple." Couldn't have picked the wrong man. . . . The USC and UCLA bands are better to watch, this season, than the football teams. Why doesn't someone stage an annual Rose Bowl for music with the very best college bands battling it out for the national title?

So You Think You're A Booted Character?

How hipped can you get? Gang of young musicians in Los Angeles—all under 20—consider bebop, Gillespie, Parker and crop strictly old-fashioned, passe, extinct. Seems they've devised what they call a "super-progressive jazz" which makes the bop boys as reactionary as Bunk Johnson. Well, when in doubt punt. . . . Billie Holiday is now expected in Los Angeles next January. For a Stuffy Norman concert, no doubt. . . . And who'd think that li'l Pete Daily of hot horn renown once bested the fabulous Satch Paige in a mound duel in Gary, Indiana? "He must have had an off day," Pete recalls, "but my knuckler was clicking." Bing Crosby, incidentally, tells his buddies that Pittsburgh will be in the '49 World Series. The owners—including Croz—will spend a million, if necessary, getting the right men for next year's N. L. campaign.

Of course you can't talk to Bob Hope these days—not since "his" Clevelanders became champions. He's still on Cloud Nine.

Announcing . . . Another Popularity Poll

All the polls are starting again. And all the winners will be different, as they always are, every year, in every magazine. Why not a poll of polls? Do readers of the Cap News want a poll to determine which poll is their favorite?

Send us your votes. There's lots of possible winners—Down Beat, Orchestra World, Metronome, your daily paper, your college weekly, the neighborhood shopping news, even the polls conducted by theaters and record shops. Vote for your favorite poll. But please, do not vote for your favorite more than 763 times. It simply isn't permissible. The results would be too much like all the other polls.

'Jo Stafford Show' In Nov. 11 Premiere

Jo Stafford's first broadcast for Revere cameras will come off on Nov. 11 with Paul Weston's music backing her. The program will be known as the "Jo Stafford Show."

To be aired over the ABC net from Hollywood, the presentation also will feature the tenor pipes of Clark Dennis and songs by Starlighters, vocal group, in addition to the Weston orchestra.

Will Continue For Chesterfield

Jo will continue her regular appearances on the Chesterfield Supper Club on NBC, it was emphasized.

Dennis will be the only holdover act from the current Revere package, which features Marion Hutton. She will go over to the Jack Carson-Frank DeVol show on CBS when the new combination of Stafford, Dennis, Starlighters and Weston take over. The new series will be aired every Thursday night.

Sock Thursday Schedule

ABC nabobs were licking their chops over the forthcoming Thursday eve lineup across the board, for effective on Armistice Day they will be able to offer the new Revere package along with the Abbott & Costello entry. The new Revere presentation also is unique from another standpoint—Jo, Dennis, Weston and the Starlighters are making records exclusively for the royal purple Capitol label.

Mike Nidorf agented the deal.



JOHNNY HODGES, for more than 20 years a stalwart with Duke Ellington's reedmen, arrives in Los Angeles this month as leader of his own little band.

N. Y. Site Of New Shaw Ork

Artie Shaw came to Hollywood last month, as the Cap News predicted he would. He was impressed with the new Bob Keen orchestra which Dave (Ace) Hudkins had organized with the view of Artie taking it over.

Then Shaw returned to New York and announced he would start rehearsals with Keen and "about four or five" of the California musicians. For personal reasons, Shaw disclosed he would prefer to reorganize in Manhattan. But he promised that Keen would be with him when he goes out, later this fall, to play theaters again as a bandleader.

It appeared that Tom Rockwell's GAC would book the new Shavian crew, with Keen getting billing. It also was indicated that Penny Parker, who has been working with Keen and Hudkins in Los Angeles, also would go to N. Y. to become Artie's girl vocalist. The band will have only five brass, four saxes, four rhythm and Shaw's stick.

Cricket Club To Get Hodges Ork

Generally regarded as Duke Ellington's most famous soloist through part of the 1920's, all the 1930's and most of the 1940's, Johnny Hodges will appear at the Cricket Club in Los Angeles this month as leader of his own little combo.

Hodges, highly-regarded on both alto and soprano saxes, advised Cricket Club bosses he would feature the vocals of Al Hibbler, who also is ex-Ellington.

Hildy Heads To S. F.

Hildegard will open at the Mark Hopkins, San Francisco, for a four-week run after her current Coconut Grove stand. She closes here Nov. 7 and bows at the Mark Nov. 9. Itinerary after that includes two weeks at the Coronado, San Diego; Beverly Country Club, New Orleans during the Christmas holidays, and Persian room of the Plaza Hotel in N. Y. next March.



PERT PIANIST featured on the Meredith Willson show over ABC is Paulena Carter, who's also quite a composer. Gov. Earl Warren personally congratulated her, just last month, on her new "California Centennial Fantasy."

Martin and Lewis Bow On Discs

(Picture on Page 8)

Pacting of the comic team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis to a Capitol Records contract last month came about simultaneously with the announcement that the two fast-rising entertainers also will be starred in the Hal Wallis production of "My Friend Irma" which goes into production soon at Paramount.

Martin is not only funny, he's one of the finest singers in America. At New York's Copacabana and at Hollywood's Slapsy Maxie's he and Lewis proved sensational.

Capitol's James B. Conkling, head of repertoire, rushed their first sides out. "The Money Song" is coupled with "That Certain Party."

Conkling also signed the veteran Nick Lucas to a waxing binder with Capitol.

Old Film Used For New Flick

Universal-International has dug up portions of old musical shorts made up by Stan Kenton, Jack Teagarden, Sonny Dunham, Henry Busse, Louis Prima, Frankie Masters and Harry Owens and spliced certain numbers together to make a short feature which will soon be released under the title of "Rhythm Masters—A Decade of Band Hits." Will Cowan "produced" the two-reeler. Kenton, incidentally, will be shown with his band performing their theme, "Artistry in Rhythm."



THE ALCYCE HALL TRIO, a favorite with Californians, just ended another sock run at the L. A. Red Feather Club in the wake of the King Cole Trio. Alcyce plays accordion—but great—with Cliff Johnson on drums and Warren Pasek at the bass. She's from Chicago, and has been pushing and pulling her pearly box some 10 years. Carlos Castel guides the group on bookings.

H'wood Caddies Moan As Dorsey Goes East

With Jimmy Dorsey back in New York again with his new band after a long stay in Hollywood, a lot of caddies are finding pickings slim.

Dorsey got in his 18 holes nearly every day for more than six months before speeding east last month to open at the New York Arcadia Ballroom for a four-week stint which began Oct. 17.

Grabs New York Musicians

Veteran New Orleans drummer Ray Bauduc, Charlie Teagarden, trumpet; Brad Gowans, trombone, and Art Lyons, clarinet, were the only musicians making the trip east with Jimmy. In New York he gathered other sidemen and rehearsed in time to present a slick crew on the Arcadia stand.

Jimmy is featuring Dottie O'Brien,

former Red Nichols chanteuse, and Larry Noble as vocalists. They were with his California band.

Nappy Sticks to West Coast

Nappy Lamare, Doc Rando, Arnold Ross and others who served with the JD gang in California last summer, and who made several movies with Jimmy recently, remained in California.

Bauduc will remain with Dorsey permanently. His wife Edna also moved from Hollywood to open her own business in Houston.

Mills Brothers Due

The singing Mills Brothers swing into the Casbah Club in L. A. on Nov. 23 for four weeks at \$3,500 per week. It will mark their first California engagement since they played the old Florentine Gardens two years ago.



"Jolson Sings Again" actually began rolling on Oct. 25 at Columbia Studios.

Larry Parks and the studio brass settled their differences and once again Parks is making with the mammy gestures in a sequel to the fabulously successful "Jolson Story" of three years ago. Henry Levin is the director. There'll be scads of songs with Joley himself heard on the soundtrack.

Lineup of Frank DeVol's second band—for the Jack Carson show on CBS—finds Buddy Cole at the piano; Tom Romera, drums; Don Whitaker, bass; Bert Johnson and Joe Howard, trombones; Neal Hefti, Bobby Clark and Ralph Fera, trumpets; Pete Johns, Ronnie Perry, John Gruy and Bob Lawson, reeds. It's an entirely different outfit than that which DeVol batons on the Jack Smith series. The union makes him divvy up the work.

Sonny Burke and Paul Webster collaborating on a bunch of songs for a forthcoming Broadway musical, "Alive and Kicking."

Los Angeles' newest newspaper, the Mirror, giving lots of space to singers, bands, acts, etc. Lou Larkin is radio ed.

Florentine Gardens, at one time Hollywood's liveliest night spot, will reopen in late November and thus give at least 10 musicians, and several acts, employment. A Chicago syndicate will run it.

Twist of the month—Bill Burton signed to manage the vet Dixieland jazz pianist, Charlie LaVere. But LaVere will only sing pash songs, a la Como! Shows what one vocal can do.

Cab Calloway off to Salt Lake City with his little combo for a one-shotter at Rainbo Rendezvous. Spot, formerly known as the Coconut Grove, was acquired last month by Jerry Jones.

Los Angeles newspapers did not make it clear that the Paul Weston who was arrested Oct. 7 in L. A. on charges of acting as a bookmaker is not the arranger-conductor.

Bill Harris rejoined the Woody Herman band on Oct. 8 on trombone. Woody expects to hit Hollywood in January.

Here's How To NOT Put On A Jazz Bash!

Two popular Los Angeles disc-spinners, Frank Bull and Gene Norman of KFWB, are giving friendly warnings to other jockies who may have hopes of presenting jazz concerts.

The two Californians, swept away with their own enthusiasm for a mammoth carnival of Dixieland jazz which was set to come off Oct. 29 at the huge Pan-Pacific Auditorium in the City of Angels, have already contacted so many performers—and agreed to give the Pan-Pacific officials, for rental a fat 20 per cent of the gross—that they discovered they couldn't possibly earn a dollar's profit on the event.

\$3,000 For Louie's Unit

Bull and Norman, for example, agreed to pay Louis Armstrong's combo (with Teagarden, Hines, Catlett and Bigard) a whopping \$3,000 for a short set to climax the carnival. They have agreed to pay virtually all the remaining performers (at least 50 including Bud Freeman, Red Nichols, Pete Daily, Eddie Miller, etc.) 50 per cent of everything taken in above expenses for Armstrong's combo and rental of the auditorium.

They pegged advertising costs and other fees (including \$500 for a special stage constructed strictly for the one night) at another \$2,500.

Nut Just Too Heavy

All of which, they now discover, adds up to around \$15,000 overhead. "Even if we get a capacity crowd," young Norman disclosed a few nights before curtain time, "we can't possibly make a profit." But as the Cap News started rolling on the press, all of Southern California—not just the Los Angeles area—was excited and advance sales indicated that Oct. 29 would go down as one of the most spectacular dates in west coast jazz history.

Spectacular, that is, for everybody but the two jocks. Next time, they swear, they'll be more conservative.

Crothers At Cricket

Sherman (Scat Man) Crothers, who recently made his debut on Capitol wax as a blues shouter and novelty vocalist, opened at the L. A. Cricket Club on Oct. 13 as star of the Cricket floor-show. He's in for four weeks.

Cleveland Next On Cole Trio's Fall Schedule

It was a brief California stay for the King Cole Trio this trip.

Nat and his partners, Irving Ashby and Joe Comfort, have just de-trained from Hollywood to make their Nov. 4 opener at the Tiajuana Club in Cleveland. The trio worked an eight-night engagement at Billy Berg's last month after their manager, portly Carlos Castel, pulled them off the job at the Red Feather when the club's management argued that the weekly fee paid the trio included a one-hour television show.

Cole and Castel said it was the first they had heard of it, that they wanted no part of the deal, and they refused to face the KTLA cameras. The union backed them up, after a hearing, and the Berg's date was set to fill in the Red Feather time.

Cole's combo also worked the Club Moderne in Long Beach, Cal., before shoving off for the home of the Indians, Boudreaux, Doby, Gordon, Bearden, Lemon, et al.

Nat got a chance to play ball with the Capitol Records team before the season ended but was forced to drop off the Cap basketball squad because of commitments in the east. His trio is heard regularly as guests on the NBC Chesterfield Supper Club program.

TB Disc Set To Go

Bob Hope is the emcee on this year's transcription designed to promote the sale of Christmas seals for the Tuberculosis Association. Featured on the program, which soon will be heard over thousands of radio stations, are the King Cole Trio, Benny Goodman, Peggy Lee, Johnny Mercer, Andy Russell, Jo Stafford, Paul Weston's ork and Margaret Whiting.



BING CROSBY wants to get into television—as owner of three video stations in the Pacific Northwest. He's also starting his newest film chore at Paramount, "Diamond In A Haystack," in which Ann Blyth and Barry Fitzgerald also will be seen. The Crosby ABC airshow ain't doin' bad, either, with Peggy Lee and Kay Starr handling most of the fem vocals from week to week.

Eight Roy Rogers Films For Re-Release

Republic will re-release eight of Roy Rogers' most popular pictures during the new season. The reissues include "Roll On Texas Moon," "In Old Caliente," "Frontier Pony Express," "Saga Of Death Valley," "Ranger And The Lady," "Colorado," "Robin Hood Of The Pecos," "Young Bill Hickok."

Skitch To Chi Hotel

Skitch Henderson comes west this month, with his band, for a five-weeker at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago starting Nov. 5. Skitch has been one-nighting through the east all summer and fall.

The Dinning Sisters
with the
Art Van Damme
Quintet



'BUTTONS AND BOWS'
(From the Paramount Picture "The Paleface")
Real cute western-flavored novelty

'SAN ANTONIO ROSE'
Enchanting version of this old favorite

Capitol Record No. 15184



'MY DARLING, MY DARLING'
(From the New York Musical "Where's Charley")
And The Starlighters with Orchestra

'GIRLS WERE MADE TO TAKE CARE OF BOYS'
(From the Warner Bros. Picture "One Sunday Afternoon")
with Orchestra

JO STAFFORD and GORDON MacRAE

Martin's Music Resumes Nov. 9 At L. A. Grove

Freddy Martin and his bandmen shake the dust off their shoes this month and return to the Ambassador Coconut Grove in Los Angeles.

Martin has been on the road since early summer, just recently climaxing his long trek with a run at the Strand Theater on New York's Broadway.

At his opening at the Grove Nov. 9—and that's one of the coast's big musical events of the year in the trade—Martin will present several new faces which have previously not appeared among the hotel's potted palms. Merv Griffin will be the featured baritone singer. Eighteen musicians including five strings will make up the full contingent.

Freddy will be able to concentrate more directly upon his music this season, for he sold his music store last spring and has allowed his music publishing activities to slow to a standstill. He will, however, still try to breed champion race horses in his spare time.

Capitol Grabs Nick Lucas

Another new addition to the Capitol array of popular singing artists was made last month when Nick Lucas, veteran troubador, signed to make discs only for Capitol in the future.

Lucas and his guitar have been solid box-office attractions for 25 years. His first release is a new cutting of his boff hit of 1928, "Tiptoe Through the Tulips." He even sings a duet with himself!



SARAH VAUGHAN is due back in Los Angeles any day now, and eager to atone for her disheartening California flop of 1947. The former Earl Hines singer—and her legion of fans—believe she'll be box-office dynamite this trip.

Three 'Names' Open Club In South L. A.

A new spot known as the "Barrel-House" was opened last month in Watts, on the far south side of Los Angeles, under the management of Johnny Miller, former King Cole bassist; Johnny Otis, drummer and maestro, and Bardu Ali, former front man for the late Chick Webb's band. The house band is perked by Bosses Miller and Otis. And they're doing good business, so far.

DEAN MARTIN and JERRY LEWIS
with Orchestra

'THE MONEY SONG'
(From the Musical "That's The Ticket")
Riotous singing to clever lyrics

'THAT CERTAIN PARTY'
Infectious hoonce, as these boys have fun

Capitol
Record No. 15249

MEET THE JOCK!

FRANK POLLACK conducts "Contrasts in Music" over Station WEXT in Milwaukee. "I try to keep away from corn," he confides, "and I prefer old standards and high-type new songs, of which there are few." In high school Frank was a musician. He's now 29 and his ambition is to announce a network show. Pollack is proud of his collection of 3,000 jazz records, and proud that his broadcasts of jazz are a success in a town which leans heavily to polkas. His theme: Stan Kenton's "Artistry in Rhythm." Before coming to Milwaukee he spent four years in radio in Manitowoc, Wis.



Vaughan, Jacquet Head For Coast

Climaxing a long and tiring tour across the nation, Sarah Vaughan and the Illinois Jacquet combo were expected to hit Los Angeles late in November.

It was probable that they would appear in formal concert before moving up to San Francisco and the Pacific Northwest. Jacquet is best-known for his screeching, steaming high-octave work on tenor sax. He also is remarkably adept at imitating the cackling of a chicken, and reproducing other barnyard noises via trick fingering and unorthodox embouchure.

Young 'Uns Stars Of Washington's Combo

George Washington, for seven years trombonist with Louie Armstrong, has assembled a new combo of youngsters for his current run at the Congo in downtown L. A. A girl, Richie Del Archie, is beating the Baldwin, Moe Edwards is on bass, alto is by Billy Green and Johnny Lawson slaps the snares. Washington keeps up with the kids on tram.

'Nature Baby' Arrives

Mr. and Mrs. Eden Ahbez welcomed a son, their first, on Oct. 9 at St. Vincent's Hospital in L. A. Ahbez gained fame last spring with his "Nature Boy" song.



MEET MARILYN . . . The new chirp on the Abbott & Costello ABC show looks like Bankhead, or Dietrich, but actually she's the daughter of the late Ziegfeld queen, Marion Harris. She calls herself Marilyn Williams and before she hit on the A & C program she scored success in Great Britain. Over there they called her "The Shape."

17 Concerts For Philharmonic

Seventeen pairs of concerts are scheduled by the Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra beginning Nov. 11-12 at the Philharmonic Auditorium. The ork will again be conducted this season by Alf Wallenstein. Darius Milhaud and Howard Hanson (not the UCLA back, however) are tabbed for guest roles with the baton. Highlight of the 48-49 season will be a performance of the Beethoven Ninth Symphony, a work which is in contrast to the bop blowings of other artists featured, in previous seasons, at the same auditorium.

20 Years In Music Finally Pays Off For 'Mayor' P.W. Hunt

(This Month's Cover Feature)

Capitol record.

For 20 years he was known strictly as a good-natured trombone player. But now Walter (Pee-Wee) Hunt is the uncontested "mayor of 12th street."

Hunt has been around a long time. He says he has blown his tram in 46 of the 48 states and Canada to boot. During the 1920's he was featured with the famous old Jean Goldkette band in the Middlewest, but it was with the original Casa Loma orchestra led by Glen Gray that he, his trombone and his jovial vocals became nationally popular.

Tried Being a Disc Jockey

Pee-Wee decided to settle in Hollywood during the war after some 12 years with Casa Loma. For a time, he worked as a disc jockey on KFWB, but spinning discs wasn't for him. A couple of years ago, Hunt formed his own little combo, a strictly from Dixie group, with Pee-Wee singing and playing tram and "tryin' to make the people happy."

But nothing happened. He worked intermission jobs at the Palladium, and occasional niteries. Then he started making transcriptions for Capitol's library which is leased to radio stations. Lee Gillette of Capitol waxed dozens of numbers by Hunt, some good jazz, some deliberately hokey Dixieland, some entertaining vocals. And all of a sudden the demand for "12th Street Rag" was echoed by thousands who heard the Pee-Wee burlesque of the old standard over radio stations.

Capitol looked up the session reports, found the names of the musicians who were on the date when "12th Street" was waxed, then paid them additional money. Then came the release of Hunt's

Critics Lack Sense of Humor

"When Down Beat panned it," Pee-Wee laughs now, "I knew it would be a hit. We did it strictly as a gag but none of the critics dug that. They were the only ones who accepted it as a serious jazz plate."

The biscuit had sold in excess of one million copies by Oct. 15 and Hunt hustled off to clean up on the strength of his newly-formed popularity.

"We open in Chicago at the Oriental Theater on Nov. 4 for three weeks," Hunt said as he left Hollywood. "Don't know when we'll get back."

Another Up His Sleeve

But he does know he'll be back eventually, for the genial, wide-shouldered veteran of the music game has remembered another old standard tune—never revived—which he is convinced can be another million-topper on wax. And he wants to use the same studio, and the same musicians, who turned the trick with "12th Street."

Pee-Wee thinks he can do it again.

Slickers Open Nov. 8 In L. A.

Slapsy Maxie's Club in Hollywood will frankly experiment this month when Spike Jones, tired of touring, sits down with his City Slickers on Nov. 8 for a one-month stand on the S. L. bandstand. Spike's mentor, Ralph Wonders, asserts that the group will reap a flat \$10,500 per week for four straight weeks. The Jones comic routines will be followed in early December by a return engagement of Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin, hottest comic turn in the biz since their Slapsy's run of last summer.

PEGGY LEE
with DAVE BARBOUR and His Orchestra

'SO DEAR TO MY HEART'
Lovely title song from Walt Disney picture.

'LOVE YOUR SPELL IS EVERYWHERE'
(From the Motion Picture "The Trespasser")
Moody as the smash hit "Golden Earrings"
... great listening!

Capitol
Record No. 15232

CAMERA!



The hottest comic act of the year — Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis will this month make their debut on records. Now Hollywood making their first film, for Hal Wallis Productions at Paramount after a long and brilliant run in Slapsy Maxie's Hollywood nitery, Dean and Jerry will be featured regularly in the future on Capitol discs. Lewis originally came from Newark; Martin is a native of Steubenville, O. It is Martin, too, whose great singing voice gives the act a new twist. Watch out for these guys — they're really rolling.



DANNY KAYE and Virginia Mayo are the featured thesps in Sam Goldwyn's just-released "A Song Is Born" film musical, and there are a dozen or more Grade-A bandleaders running frantically through the footage. Some of these are shown on the back cover. It's the last picture Danny and Virginia made for Sam.



ARTIE WAYNE is NOT laying an egg — he's frying one in the Wayne apartment in Hollywood which he shares with wife and daughter. Just back from San Francisco, Artie — a former Freddy Martin baritone — is racking up successes on his own. He's also a pretty fair country songwriter.

No Plans To Keep Savitt Ork Intact

Stroke Ends His Career At 35

There will be no attempt made to keep the late Jan Savitt's orchestra together.

The suave but excitable little guy with the fiddle was buried Oct. 7 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, Cal. Frank Sinatra, Jack Mass, Eddie Dukoff, Eames Bishop, Sammy Weiss and Ted Sherdeman served as pallbearers following final rites at Pierce Brothers Chapel.



JAN SAVITT
1913-1948

Hailed At 14

Savitt, famous throughout the world as leader of the "Top Hatters" dance ork, died in the Sacramento (Cal.) County Hospital Oct. 4 following a cerebral hemorrhage. He had apparently been in good health and his passing came as a shock not only to his wife, the former Barbara Stillwell, but also to his brother Bill, a song publisher's rep, and to members of the Savitt orchestra.

Only recently, Jan concluded a run at the swank Cocoanut Grove of the A. Ambassador Hotel. He was on the road doing territorial one-nighters when stricken.

Owned North Hollywood House

Born 35 years ago in Petrograd (now Leningrad), Russia, Savitt came to the United States as a child, and at 14 he was prominent in Philadelphia music circles as a juve "classical" violinist.

Mrs. Savitt, who once worked as Jan's secretary, said her husband had just completed a series of film shorts. The Savitts purchased a house in North Hollywood several years ago and considered California their permanent home.

It was in Philly, however, that Jan rang the bell as a bandleader. Using

But in 1940, with George (Bon Bon) Tunnell on deck as his singer, and with George Auld blowing gobs of heated tenor pipe, Savitt hit the jackpot and was rated as having one of the five top American dance bands. Savitt himself fronted the crack group, laying aside his fiddle. When the group broke up and Jan found it impossible to make replacements for key sidemen, he headed west and concentrated on radio. He was in charge of music on the Lovella Parsons ABC show at one time.

In ASCAP Since 1941

Savitt also was the composer of "720 In the Books," "Moonrise," "It's a Wonderful World" and "Now And Forever," which Bon Bon Tunnell helped Savitt popularize. In 1941 Jan was admitted to membership in ASCAP.

Savitt's father, Josef Saventnick, was said to have been the leader of an Imperial Regimental band for Tsar Nicholas.

Mrs. Savitt flew to her husband's bedside and was with him when he died. It is definite that no attempt will be made to keep the orchestra intact, as has been the case in other instances, when prominent leaders passed on.

Also Leaves Two Daughters

Lenny Corris, Savitt's arranger, was driving the car in which the maestro was making a jump from Stockton to Sacramento. He said he thought Jan was napping until the trip ended and Corris was unable to arouse his boss.

Jan also is survived by two daughters, Devi Marilyn Savitt, 7, and JoAnn Savitt, 5. Rabbi Max Dubin conducted the final services.

Whiting For Short

Margaret Whiting has agreed to star in a Paramount musical short skedded for early 1949. She will sing several hit tunes by her late father, Richard Whiting, including "My Ideal" and "Sleepy Time Gal."

Capitol To Release Telefunken Discs



SINGLE, 21, and addicted to spaghetti . . . that's Gloria Grey, singer with Ike Carpenter's California band. Gloria also plays a lot of Steinway. She's from Hollywood High, too, although San Francisco is her home town. The spot with Carpenter is her first with a full-sized dance band.

Great Collection Envy Of World

Much of the greatest music ever recorded in Europe will soon become available to this country on the Capitol label.

It all will come about as a result of an agreement between Capitol Records, Inc., and the mighty Telefunken Corporation of Germany. Negotiations between the two firms were concluded last month and have just been approved by the U. S. Government authorities involved.

Great Catalog Involved

According to Glenn E. Wallichs, Capitol's present, the agreement gives Capitol the rights to all records produced for the Telefunken label in Europe for release in North and South America.

"This means," said Wallichs, "that thousands of magnificent musical performances will eventually be made available to record buyers in the U.S.A. The finest classical artists—including virtuosi like Walter Gieseking and several of the finest symphony groups on the continent—as well as the most revered compositions of the masters will be released on the Capitol label.

"It also means that the true folk music of many nations, polkas, native songs, dance tunes, will finally be made available to Americans."

Telefunken is perhaps the most noted record manufacturer outside the United States, it was pointed out, with enviable prestige throughout the world.

Available In "Near Future"

Wallichs asserted that domestic release of the treasure of wax has not yet been scheduled, but will "certainly be made available by Capitol in the near future."

Until the agreement with Telefunken leaders was made public in late October, Capitol had produced only records in the field of popular music, plus frequent



SAX REARS its lovely head when Joe Luther (left) and the tenor ace of Joe's band, Bill Ellis, blow chase choruses together. Joe's jumpin' little crew just got back in Hollywood after a long eastern tour and are winding up a sock stint at Billy Berg's nitery, where they followed Diz Gillespie.

children's discs and semi-classical fare. But with the addition of the many sterling Telefunken masters to its catalog, the Hollywood waxery will be able to offer as fine—and as complete—a catalog of classical gems as any other record manufacturer in the world.

Russell Cuts Xmas Wax

Andy Russell has just recorded the Christmas "Command Performance" program for AFRS, emseeing a show which features Martha Tilton, Mel Blanc and Lauritz Melchior. Show is strictly for men in the armed forces.

Lots Of Stars On Elgin Shows

Lineup of stars for Elgin's two holiday shows has been partially completed by Cornwell Jackson, Coast radio head of J. Walter Thompson agency. For the two-hour Thanksgiving broadcast, talent will include Jimmy Durante and Garry Moore, Red Skelton, Jack Benny, Vera Vague, Frances Langford, Mario Lanza, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, Andre Previn and Mills Brothers. At mikeside for the Christmas special will be Al Jolson, Edgar Bergen, Bob Hope, Ozzie and Harriet, Cass Daley, Lauritz Melchior, Danny Thomas, Jo Stafford, Red Ingle's group and Sandra Berkova. Don Ameche will emsee both programs.

James Next At Pally

Harry James' band will replace Lawrence Welk's at the Hollywood Palladium Nov. 23. Welk opened there on Oct. 19.

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TEX WILLIAMS
with orchestra

'LIFE GITS TEE-JUS, DON'T IT?'
Seems everything bad always happens to Tex

Capitol
Record No. 15271

'BIG HAT POLKA'
Tex in a merry mood
with his Western Caravan



THAT'S SKITCH Henderson at left faking a bass passage, while Monica Lewis, the vocal lovely, whams the tubs for Peter Lind Hayes at the New York Waldorf-Astoria. Henderson's band has been on tour all fall, and will soon be playing the N. Y. Pennsylvania Hotel's Cafe Rouge again.

Twenty Big Behymer Concerts For L.A.

Mrs. L. E. Behymer will direct the Behymer series of "classical" concerts again this season, just as her husband did for so many years, at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium starting Nov. 16.

The entire list of 20 concerts will include the Original Don Cossack Chorus and Dancers, Serge Jaroff, director, Nov. 16; Igor Gorin, baritone, Nov. 23; Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Dec. 11 and 14; Patrice Munsel, soprano, Jan. 18; Miklos Gafni tenor, Jan. 25; Robert Casadesus, pianist, Feb. 8; Blanche Thebom, soprano, Feb. 15; San Carlo Opera Company, Feb. 19 and 22; Marian Anderson, contralto, Feb. 27; Rudolf Firkusny, pianist, Mar. 1; De Paur's Infantry Chorus, Mar. 5; Isaac Stern, violinist,

Mar. 15; Leonard Pennario, pianist, Mar. 22; Draper and Adler, Mar. 26; Bartlett and Robinson, duo-pianists, Mar. 29; James Melton, tenor, April 4; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, May 8; and one to be announced.

Three special concerts, not included in any series will be given by Vladimir Horowitz, pianist, Dec. 7; Jascha Heifetz, violinist, Jan. 11; and Hazel Scott, pianist, Jan. 29.

Songwriters On TV

Adeline Hanson is emceeing a new television show over Hollywood's KLAC which features different songsmiths every Thursday at 8 p.m. They play and sing their own ditties with Adeline splicing info on their careers, past hits, etc.



ABC Network executives assert that the new Kay Starr program is the "freshest" and "most entertaining" sustainer now being heard in web radio.

Kay teed off last month as emcee of her own show with Buzz Adlam's band accompanying her songs and with Paramount's Mona Freeman as her first guest. Heard nationally from Hollywood, Kay airs every Monday night at 7:30 Pacific Daylight time, just ahead of the new Gordon MacRae railroad stanza (but aired in New York, by transcription, followed MacRae.) Former "Down Beat" editor Ted Toll is the producer and Joan Caulfield and Jane Wyman followed Miss Freeman as October guests of La Starr. Her program will snare a sponsor shortly, ABC bigwigs confidently declared.

Johnnie Johnston, while working at Ciro's nitery, and his wife, Kathryn Grayson became parents of a daughter on Oct. 7. They named her Patty Kate Johnston.

Dinah Shore and husband, George Montgomery, allegedly are expecting again, too. The time? "Sometime in 1949."

Columbia Pictures completed shooting of "Make Believe Ballroom" in late October. Among the singers featured are Kay Starr, Nat (King) Cole, Jack Smith, Frank Laine and Toni Harper. They sing the songs you expect them to sing on the pic's soundtrack.

Al Hibbler, blind baritone whom Jay McShann found in Texas eight years ago, and who hit big later with Duke Ellington, will be featured with the new Johnny Hodges combo soon to arrive in L. A.

Ex-Governor Jimmie Davis of Louisiana is busy on the Monogram lot making a musical, "Rhythm." Jimmy is quite a singer—folk music.

Frances Langford opens at El Rancho Vegas, Las Vegas hotel resort, for two weeks commencing Nov. 24.

Danny Kaye goes to Europe again in November. He just finished "Happy Times" at Warner Brothers.



ERROLL GARNER, as seen by Marshall Barer's pen. The Pittsburgh pianist will be featured on the stage of the Million Dollar Theater in Los Angeles for a week starting Nov. 2 along with Jimmy Liggins' little combo. Garner last month wound up a long run at the Haig, Intime Wilshire eatery.

Tex Williams Gets Romay For Pix

Lina Romay will get a build-up in films soon as a western "heroine." The former Cugat thrush, who made her name singing Latin tunes, bagged the lead opposite Tex Williams in U-I's "Sun In the Sky" and "Cheyenne Cowboy," first of a series of three-reelers in the sagebrush idiom.

Williams' first chores for the studio proved so successful that he's been packed to a long-term contract. U-I brass believe he will someday be as big a screen draw as Roy Rogers.

40 Men Too Many For Berg-Moore

Phil Moore abandoned his plans to take a 40-piece orchestra into Billy Berg's nitery in H'wood and, instead, took a quartet into the Le Papillon for the Audrey Young engagement.

Moore, who plays piano and composes, was anxious to "try something different" at Berg's and he figured he could get across some of his ideas with the mammoth ensemble. His manager, Phil Bloom, thought otherwise. It would have cost about \$4,000 a week just to pay off the musicians.



FOLLOWING THE trail blazed a year or more ago by Al Jarvis, first, and then Gene Norman, KLAC jockies Don Otis and Bob McLaughlin are presenting their own television shows in Los Angeles regularly via KLAC-TV.

Roc Hillman's Trio (he was star guitarist with Jimmy Dorsey and Kay Kyser for 10 years) plays for the guest singers which the two emcees present. But although there now are approximately 37,000 TV sets in the Greater Los Angeles area, virtually none of the programs over the four stations feature music. The musicians' union is admittedly disappointed with the number of musicians employed by video producers. As of now, less than 25 tooltlers draw regular checks.

KFWB's Bill Anson now airing from midnight to 2 a. m. from the Red Feather, L. A. nitery, a la Jack Eigen. He also continues his daily stint for housewives.

Ernie Felice finally pulled his little combo out of the Ambassador Hotel (the group started there last December) and, after a vacation, they'll concentrate on radio for the next few weeks. Felice is now regarded as the best accordionist in the business.

Musicians who remember when Red and Bobbie Nichols were making one-night jumps with their baby daughter, Dorothy Lorraine Nichols, may want to read this item twice just to be sure. For their little redhead up and married David S. Mason Sept. 2 in Hollywood.

She's their only child.

Bebop is beginning to "drag" Nat (King) Cole, he said in an interview

with Gene Norman over KFWB the other night, because the novelty has worn off and all the musicians playing the bop idiom are merely imitating Gillespie and Parker. Nat said he still enjoys the originators, but that the hundreds of pseudo-boppers are hurting music and the profession with their astounding lack of originality and trite, noisy, unrhythmic carbon copies.

He told Norman that it was time for musicians to come forth with "a lot of fresh things in music" as Basie, Goodman, Lunceford, Shaw, the Dorseys, Kirk, Hines and others did in the 1930's. "All those guys," Cole said, "had something new. They weren't copying anyone. And it paid off at the box-office."

Shelly Manne is back as drummer in Stan Kenton's band. Irving Kluger, who replaced Manne last year, is out.

Hotel Gaylord in L. A. is currently offering Francine Fay, singer, and the orchestra of Al Kaylee.

Ciro's renewed Phil Ohman's music until the end of December.

Dropped by Philip Morris from the network airwaves, Mel Torme hustled out of town to a night club job at the Town Casino in Buffalo. He opens Nov. 1 for a week, then does a fortnight at the Milwaukee Showboat, then opens Nov. 26 at the Lake Club in Springfield, Ill.

Eddy Oliver's band is on the Ambassador's Cocomat Grove stand during the current Hildegard engagement. The Milwaukee gal came into the Grove immediately following her trek to Europe.

Judy's sister Jimmi Garland winding up a single at Slapsy Maxie's. She was once wed to Bobby Sherwood.

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'Serutan Yob'

The Unnatural Seven do a fantastic frolic for folks over and UNDER 35!

'OH! NICK-O-DEMO' with The Natural Seven
Mountain-style secrets told to hot fiddles
and steel guitar.

Capitol
Record No. 15210





Tommy Duncan Will Sing On Capitol Label

By LEE GILLETTE

One of the all-time giants of western singing has just been signed to a record contract by Capitol.

He is Tommy Duncan, for 16 solid years the featured vocalist with Bob Wills' popular Texas Playboys. Tommy soon will make his debut on the purple Capitol label and will get top billing singing brand new tunes he himself has written as well as many old faves which are still requested.

Tommy, a native of Hillsboro, Texas, was playing fine "fiddlin' guitar" at 16. He did his first radio broadcast on Christmas day, 1930, over WDAG in Amarillo. Then came a job with Armie Armstrong's band in Fort Worth, followed by a slot with Bob Wills, who at that time was heading the Light Crust Doughboys.

In 1934, Duncan and Wills moved to Tulsa, where Tommy made his headquarters until he entered the army. After serving, Duncan rejoined Wills, who by now was leading just about the most popular western aggregation ever assembled.

Tommy sang a lot of great hits with Wills' outfit, including San Antonio Rose, Take Me Back To Tulsa, Trouble In Mind, Ida Red, Time Changes Everything and I Ain't Got Nobody. He made scads of records and became a favorite "voice" on juke-boxes.

And Duncan, you can bet, is grateful to his old boss.

"I owe all my training to Bob Wills," he says. "We have parted the best of friends and I only hope I'll be a credit to his wonderful teachings."

Tommy was born Jan. 11, 1911, and he was educated in a little country



TOMMY DUNCAN has just signed to be featured as a western singer on Capitol platters. He's long been popular, in his specialized field, as soloist with the Bob Wills band.

school. But his big education came as a singer, on the road, playing and singing to thousands of lovers of western music.

"I think I can make it okay on my own," he confides. And he admits he will spring a gang of new tunes on his forthcoming discs.

MEET THE JOCK!

JOE MAGGIO is first of all, a record collector, with what he considers a "priceless" array of hot wax dating back

to the early 1920's and emphasizing the New Orleans greats. On **KIDO** in Boise, Idaho, he spins discs 14 hours a week. "I hate fan mail," he says. "It bores me."

And so he never asks or fills requests. Joe is a former drama student, 25, and a native of Baton Rouge, La. For two years he has been a **KIDO** feature, and he claims he is Boise's first jockey. But don't write to him—he won't answer!



HEAR THESE

relaxing! 'The Pied Pipers' Harvest Moon Album' featuring **THE PIED PIPERS** with Paul Weston & His Orchestra

Lean back and listen to these great old songs... melodies that will recall pleasant memories. Listen with lights down low to 'Girl of My Dreams,' 'Melancholy Baby,' 'Poor Butterfly,' 'Alice Blue Gown,' 'Can't You Hear Me Calling, Caroline,' and of course 'Shine On Harvest Moon.'

Capitol Album CC-103 \$3.00 plus tax

sparkling! 'Cocktail Capers' featuring the **Art Van Damme Quintette**

Here's music with all the sparkle of champagne. The Art Van Damme Quintette is a wonderful combination for perfect listening — to songs like 'Dark Eyes,' 'The Breeze and I,' 'I've Got You Under My Skin,' 'Meadowland,' 'Lover' and 'If I Had You.'

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you'll want them for your collection

JO STAFFORD and GORDON MacRAE



'SAY SOMETHING SWEET TO YOUR SWEETHEART' With The Starlighters

Two top stars have fun... a real cutie.

'BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS' With Male Choir

Thrilling ballad, rich choral background, lovely duet.

Capitol
Record No. 15207

Capitol
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Not a Bop In The Batch!



THE MEN who make the music in Sam Goldwyn's "A Song Is Born" flicker were caught last summer, during shooting, in a slight bash. West to east, shown here are the Mad Mab, Charlie Barnet; Tommy Dorsey, Benny (Professor) Goodman, Louis Armstrong and

Lionel Hampton. Benny Carter, Phil Moore, Page Cavanaugh and a host of others also are heard on the soundtrack. Stars of the production (you can gander them on Page 9) are Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo.